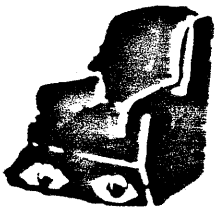
RNA | FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

NOVEMBER 1988 232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.



Under the Chair

LETTERWRITING - RNA is starting a letter-writing campaign to stop what our members consider a threat to our quality of life. Several houses on Ogden Avenue, owned by out-of-town landlords, are being rented by families that are totally insensitive to their neighbors. Problems of overcrowding, unruly and disrespectful children, loud noises and music, dirty and unhealthy conditions, violence and fears of drug-dealing are deteriorating our block. Letters are being sent to these absentee landlords (as well as to Councilman Hart, Mayor Cucci, the Police Dept., the Health Dept., and the Housing Clinic) informing them of the above problems and asking them to correct them immediately. If any of our members or neighbors have a similar problem, please inform RNA of the situation and the organization will be willing to write a letter to the owner. RNA feels this action is necessary if the tenant, landlord and the City is unwilling or unable to remedy the problem.

ABANDONED - There are four abandoned properties on Ogden Avenue: 234-236, 255 and 285. The problem with these houses is that none of them have been boarded up properly by either the owners or the City. This has led to numerous breakins by delinquents, squatters and vandals. The result is a deterioration of the neighborhood which creates fears of fire or arson with these properties. The other "crime" is that the buildings are empty and no one is able to live in these houses. RNA has informed Mark Redfield of the HED Housing Clinic/Anti-warehousing Unit (547-4676) of these properties. He has promised to act on these properties by contacting the owners to secure and renovate them. If necessary, he will follow up by issuing summonses and subpoenas for court appearances when the owners to do not respond.

PROGRESS - On October 18th, RNA and Councilman Tom Hart met with Frank Santana, the new manager of the infamous New Neighbor Auto Body Shop located at 33 Griffith Street. The manager was informed of the constant complaints made by neighbors:

a) garage sometimes open 12 to 14 hours a day - Saturdays and Sundays,
b) cars parked all over the street, on the sidewalk and sometimes double parked,
c) repair work being done on the street,
d) paint fumes detected in the neighboring houses on Griffith and Ogden, and
e) illegal and unsafe work practices carried on in the building.

284 Pavonia
West Hamilton
cules

Responding to the complaints, the manager promised to the following conditions:
1) work hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sundays - closed,

2) a better effort to keep the area outside the building clear of cars and garbage, and

3) to end the practice of repairs in the street.

The manager stated he does not paint in the shop - only priming- which he states he is able to do. Tom Hart asked if he would rather be in a bigger space and better location and offered the services of his office and the City to help the business relocate. As we went to print, Tom Hart's office had not received and answer from the garage.

FOOTNOTE - when asked who the owner of the property was, the manager stated that it was Frank Gozzolino, not the persons listed in the tax records - Pronti, D. c/o Santo Calarco, 571 Central Ave, Jersey City.

TAXES - Now that the majority of us have filed an appeal against our new property assessments and made a gallant attempt to pay our third quarter tax bills, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The Jersey City Coalition for Fair Taxation is alive and well. It is now awaiting a court date to take its case before State Tax Court. The issue, if there is anyone who needs to be reminded, is that the new City-wide revaluation is bad and should be thrown out and redone. There was an excellent article in the Jersey section of the New York Times on October 16th explaining that Jersey City is not unique in its revaluation crisis and that Rutherford, Elmwood Park, Fairfield and Montclair have or are planning court action and Trenton, Camden and Newark are about to face their first revaluation in more than 25 years. "It is not uncommon for city governments to appeal the revaluations, which are conducted by independent companies, but residents say it seems curious that the Jersey City administration would take the politically unpopular position of supporting the revaluation" The coalition is now sponsoring a series of fundraising events for its legal defense fund: square dances and a flea market. The downtown square dance took place on October 22nd. The Coalition is now looking for a location to hold a square dance in the Heights. If anyone knows of a location for this worthy fundraiser, please contact the Coalition (420-0308) or RNA (798-0493). The Coalition is also

sponsoring a Flea Market on Saturday, November 12th at St. Michaels on 9th Street. They need items to sell and volunteers to help run the tables. People are also encouraged to sell their own items; either $20 for a table or 10% of their day's sales. There will be turkey raffle also. People interested, can call the Coalition at 420-0308 or 653-3619.
FOOTNOTE: RNA has contributed $100.00 to the Coalition for its legal defense fund.

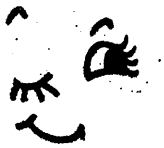
ANNOYANCE - It has come to the attention of several RNA members that commercial vehicles have been illegally parking on our streets: Palisade and Ogden Avenues and Wood Place. The law states that no commercial vehicle can be parked on a public street after 9 p.m. The real "crime" is that these trucks and vans are taking up valuable parking space needed by residents. Please call the police at 547-5477 to report any commercial vehicle parked overnight in our neighborhood. One present offender to keep an eye out for is a white

cab with "VITARROZ" Printed on the door with N.J. License XM87ZH. This vehicle has been parking on Palisade Avenue between Griffith and Bower Streets for the last month and it is usually attached to a large trailer that takes up at least four parking spaces.

TREE-TRIM - Riverview Park is finally getting some of the necessary tree-trimming RNA has been asking for all last summer. On September 14th, RNA met with Ron Buonoocre of Public Works, Joan Earls of Leisure Activities and Charles Koch of Forestry. Two large dead trees located around the pavilion are being cut down. RNA has received promises from the Forester that new trees will be planted next spring. We are very

concerned that our Park's trees and shrubbery are not being cared for properly. There is a mold, or disease, that is on the trees lining both sides of Ogden Avenue in the Park. When brought to the attention of the forester, he stated that he did not know what it was but would look into it. (As of this date RNA has not received an answer from the forester). The forester has also begun to cut the tall overgrowth on the Palisade cliffs that has blocked our view of the skyline.

FLOWERS will be back in bloom next spring in our Park. On October 15th, a few neighbors gathered in the Park and planted 60 tulips The tulips were donated by N.H.S. (Neighborhood Housing Services) to help beautify our neighborhood. Special thanks to Mrs. Tuzzo, Maria Tuzzo, Kathy Brennan and Doug Kraft for their cultivating efforts. Zaybe if this planting is successful, more people will be encouraged to try and plant flowers in the Park. What an unusual idea... Flowers in the Park!



Giving - It's the time of the season to remember others less fortunate than ourselves. RNA is organizing a few activities we hope will bring cheer to some lives. On Friday, November 18th, RNA will sponsor our annual Fall Harvest Party for the residents of the Harborview Health Care Facility. It will begin at 1 p.m. in the dining room where the residents will be finishing their lunch. We will serve the dessert, consisting of baked goods and apple cider. RNA has arranged with Principal Charles Trefurt to have entertainment provided by the children of P.S. 8. RNA needs volunteers to help with the hostessing and to bake something

for the refreshments (sugar and salt free). Jack Rea is this year's organizer and will finalize arrangements at our November 9th meeting. Please, if you have the time, try and spend some of it with these lovely people - it means so much to them to talk and be with others.

RNA is also sponsoring our annual food and toy drives. We will collect the donated food at our November meeting and present it to the Salvation Army for distribution during Thanksgiving and the rest of the winter. We need canned goods and dry goods - things that will not spoil. At our December meeting we will collect new and used toys for the Christmas holiday. The toys must be in good working order. Again, we will give the items to the Salvation Army for distribution. It's not hard to reach into your wallet and heart and give some happiness to others. Give it a try - you'll feel great!

REMINDERS:

Recycling is now a Citywide law. Our collection day is Wednesday. Glass and aluminum in one container and newspapers tied up or bagged. The Incinerator Authority is dispensing plastic containers to put glass and aluminum in. If interested, contact Tom Killeen at 432-4645 for your container.

VOTE - VOTE - VOTE - I'll repeat that again VOTE! Whether you feel comfortable with our present Republican state of affairs or would like a Democratic change of government, it is your duty to vote your mind and help determine the destiny of your country, your state, your city and your neighborhood. Yes, your community is at stake - so vote wisely!

Energy Conservation: RNA will have its next meeting on Wednesday, November 9th because of a special presentation sponsored by the Dept. Of Human Resources and P.S.E.& G. The subject will be energy conservation in the home - showing residents how to better insulate their houses and apartments. The sponsors are giving $200.00 worth of free insulation work and equipment to all participants: tenants and owners. Pre-registration is necessary, so all interested should call 547-5855/5892/6945 to sign up for this workshop.

CAROLLING At our November meeting, RNA will organize our annual Christmas carolling group. As in years past, we would like to bring the holiday spirit to our neighborhood by singing some of the traditional songs of the season. Come and join us this year and bring your voice and a warm coat and gloves.

PALISADE CONSERVATION

The following is a summary of the Palisade Conservation Plan prepared by the Regional Plan Assn & The Trust for Public Land.

The Lower Palisades and Castle Point are a truly unique landscape: A backyard wilderness of expansive views, sheer rock and shady trails set in a tightly-packed urban frame. With good planning and management, this long neglected resource could become a positive asset to local communities, providing much-needed conservation and recreational benefits.

The rate and scale of new development along the lower Hudson River makes preservation of the cliffs a task of regional significance as well. Creation of a Lower Palisdades Greenway and conservation to the cliffs from Fort Lee to Jersey City, along with completion of the Hudson Waterfront Walkway and the proposed light rail/transitway, would help to turn the waterfront into a distinct and livable "river city."

The purpose of the Palisades Conservation Plan is to help make that vision a reality. The Plan has five interrelated goals:

Preserve open space and historic resources on the cliffs;

Improve physical access between the communities above the cliffs and existing and proposed development at the base of the Palisades;

Protect the views of the Hudson River and New York City skyline as well as the aesthetic quality of the cliffs;

Create new opportunities for active and passive recreation;

Improve the quality of the Palisades environment.

Plan Highlights

Acquire and develop about 65 acres of land in 12 new regional and local parks. This would effectively double the amount of public parkland on the Lower Palisades and Castle Point.

Protect the rest of the Lower Palisades through municipal zoning and land use regulation, coordinated and enforced through state oversight.

Improve and redevelop the 52 trails, walkways, paths, stairs and streets that provide physical access between the cliffs and the waterfront.

Ensure visual access to and from the cliffs and the Hudson River by securing publicly-accessible viewing areas on and below the cliffs, and by mandating that adequate "View Corridors" be made part of new development along the waterfront.

Three Major Plan Components

1. Lower Palisades Greenway. This innovative park concept provides a tool for the Palisades Communities to protect and improve the natural, historic, and cultural features of the Palisades. It would link the cliffs physically and visually with the Hudson River waterfronts.

The Greenway would be composed of local and regional parks, scenic roads and trails, historic sites, viewpoints, and natural resources, including:

Three major regional parks or additions to existing parks in Jersey City, Union City, North Bergen, and Edgewater/Cliffside Park. These three proposals total some 40 acres;

Nine new local parks spread throughout many of the Palisades communities. The 25 acres proposed for public acquisition include portions of Castle Point and King's Bluff;

Local street-ends with exceptional views made into neighborhood parks;

Protection of significant Palisades features which are not suitable for public access, including the steep cliffs below Boulevard East in Weehawken and cliff areas in Edgewater;

Trails up and down the Palisade cliffs and along the waterfront, including the restoration and maintenance of historic access points such as a Yardley stairs in Union City, the Hamilton Park stairs in Weehawken and the trolley line right-of-way in Edgewater;

Scenic roads to provide exceptional views and pedestrian access to the cliffs and the waterfront.

2. Physical Access

As activity increases on the waterfront, generated by new commercial centers, recreational opportunities, and mass transit services, access from clifftop communities to the waterfront must be improved. Waterfront residents will also benefit from better access to the commercial nodes in the Palisades municipalities and the opportunity to enjoy the view from the cliffs. Opportunities for pedestrian access, such as trails, stairs, scenic roads and elevators along and through the cliffs are identified and recommendations are made for their improvement.

The proposed Hudson waterfront transit corridor, designed to run directly along the bottom of the Palisades in Jersey City, Hoboken, Weehawken, and West New York, could impair perpendicular pedestrian access from the Palisades to the

waterfront. In places, this roadway/transitway could require a 190-foot right-of-way. It is important that the design of this major facility limit its potential barrier effect. Pedestrian overpasses and convenient transit stops are recommended.

3. Visual Access. Preserving the outstanding scenic qualities of the Palisades and Castle Point requires protecting both the significant views on the cliffs and the visual quality of the cliffs themselves. View corridors should be established where new development would be allowed to interrupt sight lines to and from the cliffs and the Hudson River.

On the cliffs themselves, several design principles could ensure that the Palisades are not compromised by inappropriate development: development should be prohibited on the cliff face itself; new structures should be located well away from the cliff edge or cliff foot with adequate setbacks on either side; and new public spaces should be created at the cliff edge. Billboards on the cliff should be prohibited.

WEBSTER AVENUE

On Monday, November 14th, the Board of Adjustment will hear an application to knock down needed parking garages and build an industrial building in the middle of the residential neighborhood of Webster Avenue and Hutton Street. RNA is against this breaking of the R-2 zoning code and urges its members to support the neighborhood against this absurd intrusion. The following letter has been sent by the Webster Avenue Neighborhood Association to Patricia Bligh, Senior Planner.

"We are opposed to the application for a variance by Krist-Sue Inc. at 138 Webster Avenue, Jersey City, N. J. at Block 757, Lots 213 and 214.

This application is directly opposite the current trend of the area. Commercial sites on Webster Ave. between Ferry and Franklin Streets have recently been demolished and will be replaced by 2 Family homes. The factory at the corner of Franklin and Sherman was recently converted to Condominiums. The factory on the corner of Griffith and Sherman will open shortly as a condo. We can't understand how the City can even think of allowing the construction of a manufacturing bldg in this R-2 zone.

Krist-Sue Inc states that because of the dilapidated condition of the 17 garages at 138 Webster that should be demolished. Those 17 garages fill part of the greatest need in the area - parking spaces. The garages are of substantial brick construction and do appear dilapidated, but that is because they are not maintained and have not been maintained for a long time.

Krist-Sue states that its 40-50 employees live within walking distance of his present location. Obtaining a list of home addresses of his employees would prove to me that his employees are not among the car owners that park on Webster Ave. and surrounding streets and enter 126 Webster Ave. every morning.

Leased office space (on the top floor) will only bring more traffic and parking problems to an already congested area.

Krist-Sue states that his new building will help revive the neighborhood. The neighborhood will be revived by property owners maintaining their property - not by building a factory in an R-2 zone.

Richard Von Staden, President
Webster Ave. Neighborhood Assn

MEETING MINUTES

The October meeting covered a variety of subjects. The first was a presentation by Sgt. James Ahern and Sgt. Ed Rutkowski about the new Differential Police Response System. This system is designed to keep the policemen free to answer high priority calls such as crimes in progress or calls with life threatening situations. The less urgent calls, that do not require a police presence but do need a report to the police, can be given to a department operator. The system is still in its initial stages, but should be fully operational shortly.

The second guest speaker was Barbara Lawrence of the Regional Plan Assn. Mrs Lawrence gave a review in slides and skethes of the plan for a "walkway" along the palisades and the water front. It is a long range project to increase "open-space" for the public use, to preserve the wonderful palisades from excessive building, and to keep as much of the magnificent view from those cliffs as possible. Mrs. Lawrences presentation was met with some opposition by long time residents, whose idea of what constitutes a view and what is an obstruction of view, sharply differed with her own. - .

Other business touched upon was the Jersey City Coalition for Fair Taxation; R.N.A. annual food drive for the needy; absentee land lords and their responsibility to the neighborhood; and the guest speaker at the November meeting. We can promise you that our meetings are never dull. Please join us for the next meeting to be held at the Harborview Health Care Center on Wednesday November 9th at 7:30 p.m. We promise you won't be disappointed.

Secretary
Maria E. Tuzzo

THANK YOU..THANK YOU..THANK YOU

In our rush to bring you the newsletter we sometimes overlook some important items. Such as a note of thanks to all those people who made our Flea Market a success back in June. People like the parks department for their quick attention to clean up; the police department for setting up a finger printing of children for purposes of identification; the A&P for the contribution of goodies sold at our snack table; the members of R.N.A. who baked all those delicious cakes and cookies; members who volunteered to spend time at our R.N.A. table; the local churches who allowed us the use of their tables for our venders, and so many others.

If we have left anyone out we apologize for the over sight. Be assured that while forgotten in print you are well remembered in our hearts. As a dearly departed member of R.N.A. was fond of saying "A word of praise, though late, is never wasted". We praise you and we thank you sincerely.

The Flea Market Committee
Carin Lewis
Chairwoman

R.N.A. ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

This year has gotten off to a slow start. We started our food drive a month early so that many more of our members would have time to contribute. However, it seems as if people are ignoring us this year. Please make a contribution to this very worthy cause. You can bring your donation of non perishable foods to the November meeting, or you can call 659-2245 after 5:30 p.m. and find out where the drop for the food donations is located. Money contributions are acceptable. A committee member will shop for you.

Maria Tuzzo
Committee Chairwoman

LETTER FROM DIV. OF ENGINEERING

New York Avenue Clean-up

Additional contamination of the area has occurred when several drums were found to contain liquid wastes, resulting in an immediate clean-up response. Therefore, all future clean-ups associated with empty drum removal will require monitoring of each individual drum. This will slow down the clean-up project and require smaller handling equipment. Solid waste continues to be removed and a temporary chainlink fence will be installed on the roadway edge (east side) to prevent access to the open field created through the clean-up efforts. Surveillance of the area has been provided as time permits.

New York Avenue Reconstruction

No bids were received on September 27, 1988. The project will be re-bid in November, 1988.

Mountain Road - Plans

The Division of Engineering has not performed any design work for Mountain Road. We are well aware of the Riverview Associates intentions for this roadway and will coordinate any differences when project financing is available.

Michael Barnes
Municipal Engineer

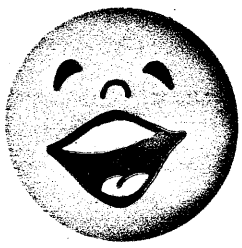
THIRD ANNUL CHRISTMAS CAROLING

R.N.A. will conduct its annual Christmas caroling on Saturday December 17th. A time for the carolers to meet has not been set yet. Full details of the event will appear in the December news letter.
Join us and discover a great way to celebrate the season and a wonderful way to meet your neighbors.

The following letter is being sent to several absentee land lords whose property is the source of some of the problems in our neighborhood:

The Riverview Neighborhood Association was formed by concerned property owners and tenants and now numbers over one hundred active members. People, like you, who want a better quality of life and are interested in maintaining property values in our neighborhood.
Part of the function of the Association is to report any problems to the proper person or authority. In the interest of keeping our entire neighborhood safe and in good repair, we have noticed that your property is being abused.
As an absentee property owner you may not be aware of the action of your tenants with regard to your property. We feel you should be apprised of certain facts.
(Problems differ with each property and are listed per situation.)
We hope that having brought these problems to your attention that you will take the appropriate action to correct the situation. The Association is willing to assist in anyway that it can. We are concerned enough that we feel a meeting between you and our members is necessary at this time.
In the current real estate market a property with the above stated problems can only devalue your investment. We expect your response within ten days.
This letter is being sent to various city agencies, so that they will be aware of the concerns of the Riverview Neighborhood Association.

Very truly yours etc.



THANKSGIVING AROUND THE WORLD

The United States and Canada are two of the very few nations to celebrate a governmentally decreed day of Thanksgiving. Harvest festivals around the world tend to be less formal, and more locally celebrated arrangements.

The tradition of a Thanksgiving ceremony dates back more than 2,000 years.

The Jewish festival of Sukkot is an early harvest celebration, as is an Irish ritual that began with the building of huge bonfires to offer encouragement to a waning sun, prayers for an easy winter.

We've taken some of our own traditions from the old American Indian custom of Thanksgiving for Birds. Indian tribes would have 3 ears of corn and various gourds outside of their tepees as offerings for the birds. In this way, they thanked their gods for a good harvest, for proper weather, and prayed for endurance for the crops through the next three seasons.

Other American traditions have come from the English ceremonies of Harvest Home. Celebrated throughout the villages and towns of Great Britain from August through mid-October, much of the activity centered around the village church. Children helped decorate the altars with pumpkins, carrots, apples and potatoes while a basket of eggs and a special loaf of wheat bread, braided down the center took a place of honor. In the afternoon there was a special ceremony for children. Each child brought a gift which was received and blessed by the vicar. Thankfulness is the rent we pay God for living on this wonderful earth.

From Germany, comes Oktoberfest - the famed Bavarian festival that even today rings in the season of buying and selling, merrymaking and drinking. Tourists and natives alike every year flock to Munich and the surrounding area where a carnival-like atmosphere reigns A Polish tradition was Dozynki, or harvest festival. On large land-owning estates throughout the country, peasants brought gifts of harvest fruits. Forming great processions with wreaths of grain, flowers, nuts and corn, they were invited to feast and dance with the master and mistress of the estate. Together, they decorated the walls with the harvest wreaths, which remained in place with the dozynki festival the following year.

Sweden is the place for Martin's Goose Day. Held on November 11, it began in Skane, the province famous for geese. Families hold great Marten Gas parties with tables groaning from roast goose, applies, prunes, sauerkraut and green cabbage.

Even the Orient has a tradition of harvest celebrations. In Viet Nam the Mid-Autumn Festival was a day of great excitement for children. Held on the day when the full moon is at its brightest, children receive brightly colored toys - paper lanterns shaped like fishes, dragons and boats.

After dinner, there is the Lion Parade. The leader of the long procession wears an enormous lion's head make of paper while the trail of children behind him perform a dance of good luck

In the Virgin Islands, there is the Hurricane Thanksgiving celebrated if there is no hurricane the previous year.

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

CITY HALL • JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07302

Energy Conservation Program 547-5855

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mayor
Anthony R. Cucci

Eugene McKnight, Executive Director

Gary De Filippo, Energy Coordinator
201 Cornelison Avenue
Jersey City, N.J. 07304

Dear Tenant or Homeowner:

I am pleased to announce that the Energy Conservation Program of Jersey City will conduct a Public Service "E-Team" workshop in your area:

PLACE: Harbor View Health Care Facility
DATE: Wednesday, November 9, 1988
TIME: 7:00 P.M. Sharp

This program is being offered to both tenants and homeowners. The only requirement is that you are a Public Service customer.

If you have already participated, please do not register again. This program is only open to 1st time applicants.

All participants will receive absolutely free the following:

1. $ 200 worth of weatherization work- (window chaulking, weatherstripping, pipe insulation, etc.)
2. 1 Blanket
3. Weatherization kit- (chaulking, plastic storm windows, thermometer and other fine gifts)

4. Refreshments will be served

Pre-registration is required, so please call and give your Public Service account number.

Gary De Filippo, Energy Coordinator
201 Cornelison Avenue
Jersey City, N.J. 07304
201-547-5855/5892 or:

Detach the bottom portion of this page and return it to my office.

I hope to hear from you soon,

Gary De Filippo

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Detach Here

NAME: PHONE #:

ADDRESS:

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ENERGY" P.S. ACCOUNT #:

Harbor View

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

V. Brunetti **CR-18
232 Ogden Ave.
Jersey City, N.J. 07307

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RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

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ENVIRONMENT:
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Mike Moloughney
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